

c. 1860

BA 1699
Robinswood
Garrison Forest School
Garrison,
Maryland
private

Robinswood is a house of moderately large size, dating from the late 1870's but wholly converted about 1915 from its original French Renaissance revival style to the American Colonial revival style. It is now used as a dormitory for students at the Garrison Forest School.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA 1699
x-867.080
y-574.900

MA6I #031691502

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

ROBINSWOOD

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Garrison Forest School

CITY, TOWN

Garrison

STATE

Maryland

— VICINITY OF

Second

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Baltimore

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

—YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—MUSEUM

—COMMERCIAL

—PARK

☒ EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—ENTERTAINMENT

—RELIGIOUS

—GOVERNMENT

—SCIENTIFIC

—INDUSTRIAL

—TRANSPORTATION

—MILITARY

—OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Garrison Forest School

STREET & NUMBER

Garrison

CITY, TOWN

Maryland

— VICINITY OF

Telephone #: 363-1500

21055

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courts Bldg.

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

ROBINSWOOD is a two and one-half storey frame house, seven bays in length with a gambrel roof; its principal facade is to the south. A short wing of equal height, also with a gambrel roof, extends to the north behind the westerly bays and a lower two-storey service wing extends further to the north from the taller wing. ROBINSWOOD appears to be a house of the early twentieth century Colonial revival, recalling an eighteenth century New England style. However it was constructed in the 1870s as a five bay house having a mansard roof, an example of the French Renaissance-revival or Second Empire style. The change in style, occurring ca. 1915, involved a change in the roofline with the addition of gables at each end having Palladian windows, substituting pedimented dormers having arched windows for the older ones with 2/2 sash, substituting a modillioned cornice for one having brackets, adding a tripartite window centered in the second storey above a new semi-elliptical fanlight at the principal entrance below and the removal of the porch which once extended across the south facade. Two bays were added at the east end, the first storey being an open porch. Windows are 1/1 with louvred blinds; formerly they were 6/6. A pair of chimneys has always flanked the central bay and another rises through the ridge at the original east end to serve the east addition. Exterior walls are sheathed with German siding, possibly the original material. A porch of the Tuscan order at the west end is one storey in height, its west side bowed nearly to a semi-circle; a balustrade surrounds its floor and another surrounds its flat roof deck.

The lower two-storey service wing is in two sections, the southerly slightly taller than the northerly. The southerly section is two bays in length while the northerly is three.

Internally nearly every detail was changed in style with the major Colonial revival alteration of the early twentieth century; the basic plan probably remains original. The principal stair is at the north end of the central hall, a Palladian window on its landing. The parlor is east of the hall, the dining room is west, extending into the short principal north wing. Principal rooms have fireplaces with mantels carefully detailed in the style of the very late eighteenth or very early nineteenth centuries and the staircase, likewise, has details of that period.

The plain interior of the north service wing has recent detailing.

- 1 -

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

North of the house is a small frame barn, its taller upper storey of hewn braced-frame construction, its lower storey, accessible on grade at the east, of stone. Exterior walls are sheathed with straight-sawn vertical siding, a material, together with the braced frame construction, indicating it to date from no later than the period of the original house, ca. 1875.

ERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ROBINSWOOD is a house of moderately large size, dating from the late 1870s but wholly converted about 1915 from its original French Renaissance revival style to the American Colonial revival style. The small barn dates at least from the period of original construction.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

ROBINSWOOD

In 1945, Robinswood, built between 1860 and 1869, was purchased by the Garrison Forest School as another dormitory.¹ Robinswood had been built alledgedly as a wedding present for Robert North Elder and his bride Susan Gordon Voss. It stood on part of the land tract, Green Spring Forest, and the 27 acre property was conveyed to Elder in 1869.² In 1906 Susan Voss Elder et al. sold the estate to Nannie Gordon, wife of John Lovell.³ It was their son Douglas who sold the property and home to Garrison Forest School.

Footnotes

¹ Baltimore County Land Records (BCLR), Liber 1395, fol. 567, Towson Court House, Towson, Maryland.

² BCLR, Liber E. H. A. 65, fol. 246, Towson.

³ BCLR, Liber W. P. C. 306, fol. 458, Towson.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes, The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978).

Baltimore County Land Records (BCLR), Towson, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James T. Wollon, Jr., A.I.A., Dawn F. Thomas, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Valleys Planning Council

828-7807

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

212 Washington Avenue

Maryland

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438





BA 1699

Robinswood

GSVHD

Garr. For. Sch

JTW

9/10/79

Md/ Hist. Tr.

from S



~~BA-1700~~

Robinswood

Barn

GSVHD

Gar. For. Rd.

JTW

10-13-79

Md. Hist. Tr

from NW

BA-1699